

Rotating Article

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39TH ANNUAL SANTA ROSA COUNTY FARM TOUR A SUCCESS

On July 21, approximately 200 county leaders and local citizens participated in the 39th Annual Santa Rosa County Farm Tour. They learned first-hand about the importance of agriculture and forestry and how the recent hurricanes have affected the industry in the county. Tour stops this year featured a variety of agricultural enterprises

A highlight of the tour was recognition of the Jimmy Nelson family as “Outstanding Farm Family of the Year”. Jimmy and his wife Wynell, son Ricky, daughters Cathy and Jan, along with their grandchildren and other family members, accepted the award. The award was presented to the family at their farm by County Commissioner Don Salter. The family also received congressional recognition through Congressman Jeff Miller’s office. Jimmy and Wynell both were reared on Santa Rosa County farms and both are fourth generation farmers. This year the Nelson’s are growing 360 acres of peanuts. They also own and operate Jay Flying Service, a crop spraying business.

The Santa Rosa Agricultural Committee conducts the Farm Tour each year. The committee is headed by the Extension Service and includes representatives of the Blackwater Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Santa Rosa County Farm Bureau, Three Rivers RC&D Council, Kiwanis Club of Milton, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, International Paper, United Bank of Jay, and The University of Florida-West FL Research & Education Center.

The Agricultural Committee would like to thank the following area businesses for helping sponsor the tour this year and making it a huge success: Burkhead Gin Company, Escambia County Bank, Golden Gin & Warehouse, Gulf Power Company, Holland Farms, International Paper, Jay Peanut Farmers Coop, Kiwanis Club of Milton, Kiwanis Club of Santa Rosa Sunrise, McKenzie Motors, Royster-Clark, Santa Rosa County Farm Bureau, Three Rivers RC&D Council, Inc., and United Bank.

Mike Donahoe is County Extension Director for Santa Rosa County.

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